

REMARKS

Summary

Claims 1-78 were pending. In the present Office action, the Examiner has required an election of species under 35 U.S.C. § 121. Species B has been elected, with traverse.

Discussion

The following species were identified by the Examiner:

Species A refers to Figures 14 and 15 [Claims 1-16];

Species B refers to Figures 16-19 [Claims 17-46]; and

Species C refers to Figures 20-25 [Claims 47-78].

It is mandatory for the Applicants to respond to an election of species requirement by electing one species for examination. The Applicants associate the claim numbers shown in brackets with the individual species, and elect Species B [claims 17-46], with traverse.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the claims identified as species by the Examiner are alternative approaches to claiming the patentable subject matter, and that a restriction is not proper in such an instance. Support for this traverse is found on page 39, line 13 to page 40, line 9, and page 50, line 17 to page 51 line 19. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the election of species requirement.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the elected claims are patentable.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned in the event that a telephone interview would expedite consideration of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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